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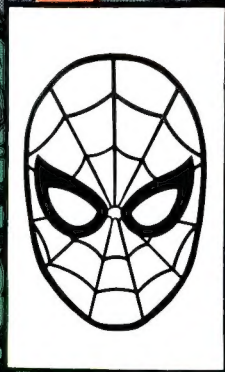
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THE NEW MUTANTS

...AGAINST THE DEATH
HORDES OF
VALHALLA!

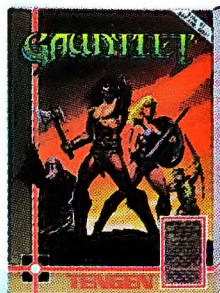




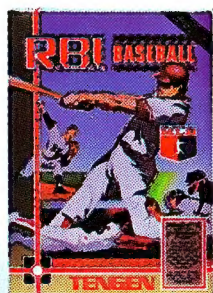
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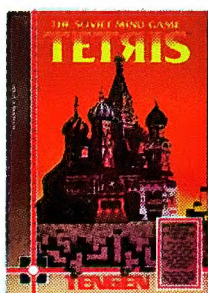
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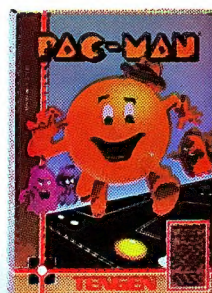
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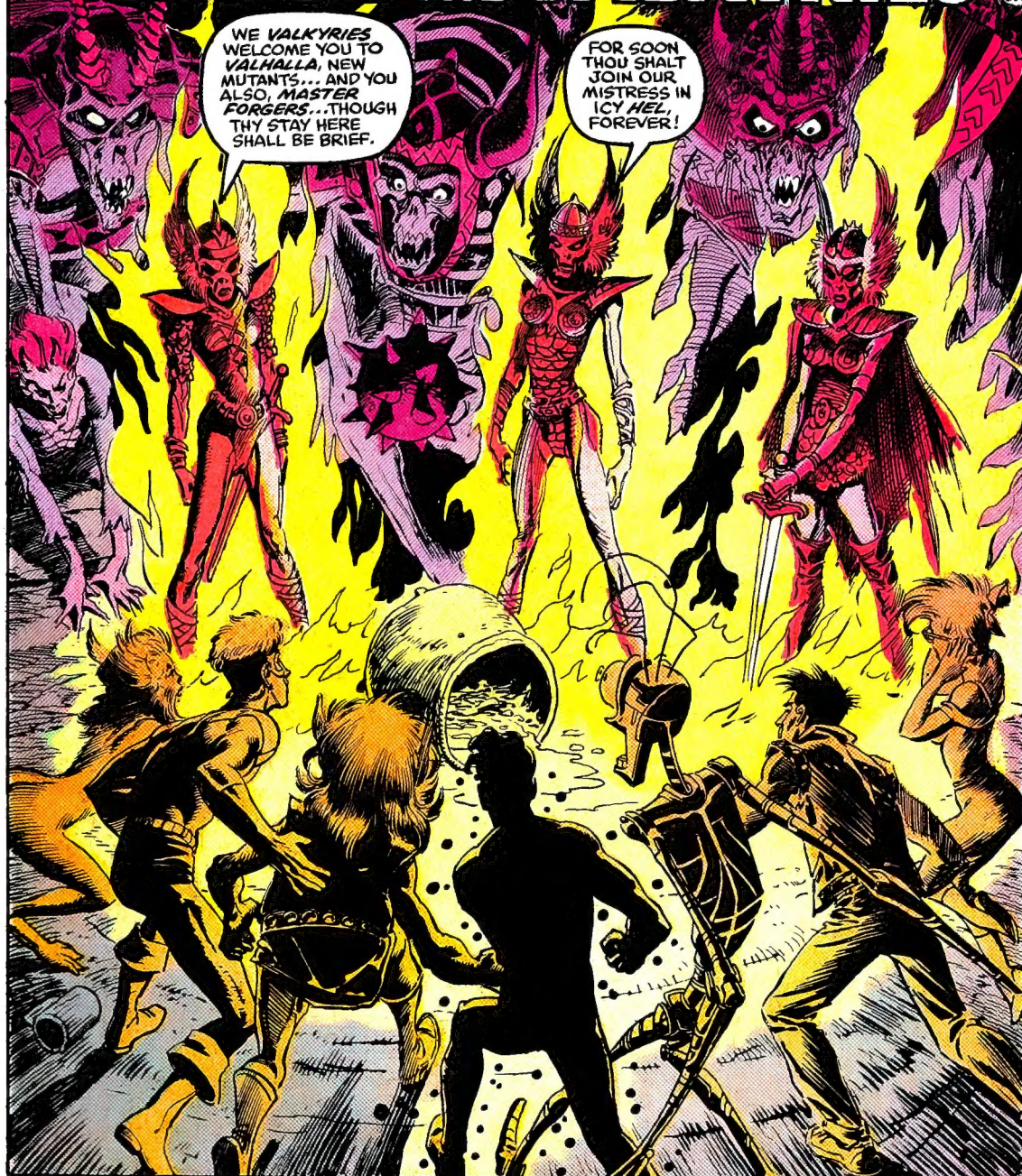
MONTHS AGO, DURING A VISIT TO ASGARD, THE DIMENSION RULED BY THE NORSE GODS, ONE OF THE NEW MUTANTS, DANIELLE MOONSTAR, WAS CHOSEN TO JOIN THE VALKYRIES AND BECOME ONE OF ALL-FATHER ODIN'S CHOOSERS OF THE SLAIN.

NOW A FLAMING ENTITY HAS POSSESSED DANI'S BODY AND BOTH DANI AND THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE BEEN SUDDENLY AND MYSTERIOUSLY TRANS-PORTED BACK TO ASGARD.

HERE, IN THE VAST CAVERNS BENEATH THE VALKYRIES' CASTLE, THE NEW MUTANTS ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH THE ATTACKING DWARF-WARRIORS, LED BY THE MASTER-FORGER, EITRI.

BUT NOW, THEY LEARN, TO THEIR DISMAY, THAT OTHERS, BESIDE DANI, HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO THE FLAMING...

CURSE OF THE VALKYRIES

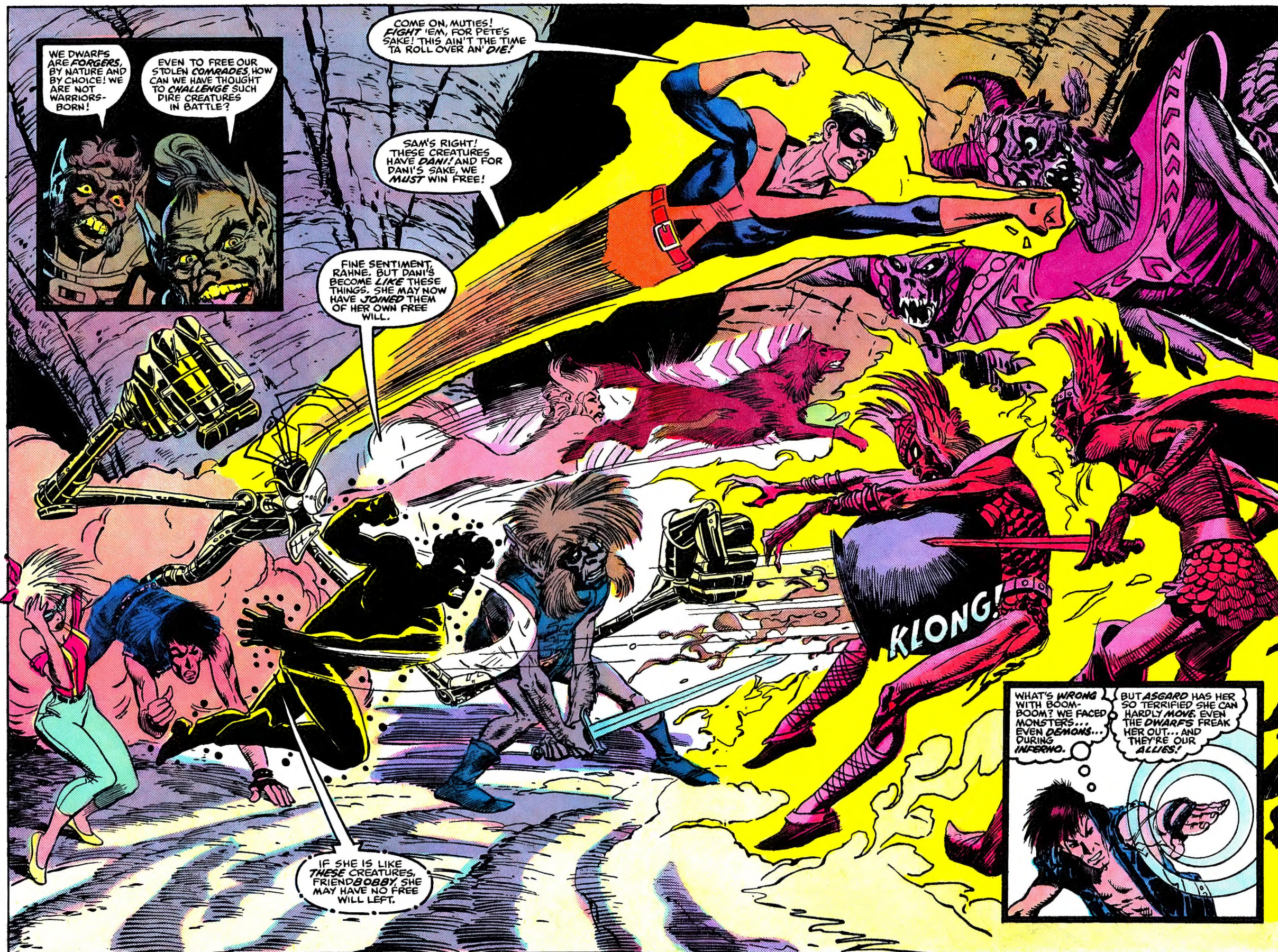


WE VALKYRIES WELCOME YOU TO VALHALLA, NEW MUTANTS... AND YOU ALSO, MASTER FORGERS...THOUGH THY STAY HERE SHALL BE BRIEF.

FOR SOON THOU SHALT JOIN OUR MISTRESS IN ICY HEL, FOREVER!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER, BRET BLEVINS PENCILER, AL WILLIAMSON INKER, JOE ROSEN LETTERER, GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST, BOB HARRAS EDITOR, TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

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WE DWARFS
ARE FORGERS,
BY NATURE AND
BY CHOICE! WE
ARE NOT
WARRIORS-
BORN!

EVEN TO FREE OUR
STOLEN COMRADES, HOW
CAN WE HAVE THOUGHT
TO CHALLENGE SUCH
DIRTY CREATURES
IN BATTLE?

COME ON, MUTIES!
FIGHT 'EM, FOR PETE'S
SAKE! THIS AIN'T THE TIME
TA ROLL OVER AN' DIE!

SAM'S RIGHT!
THESE CREATURES
HAVE DANI! AND FOR
DANI'S SAKE, WE
MUST WIN FREE!

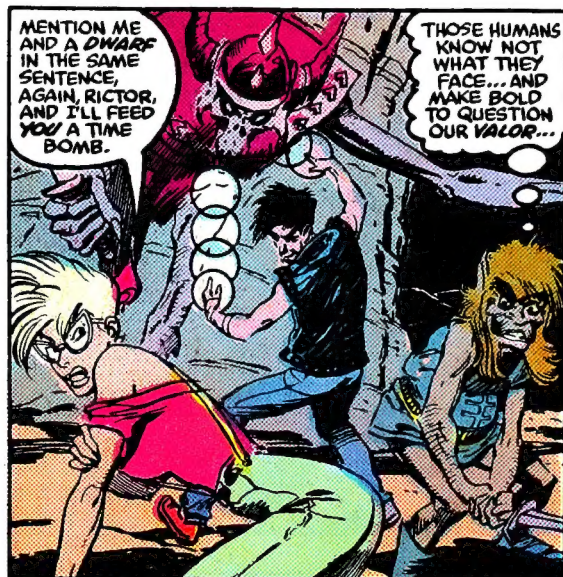
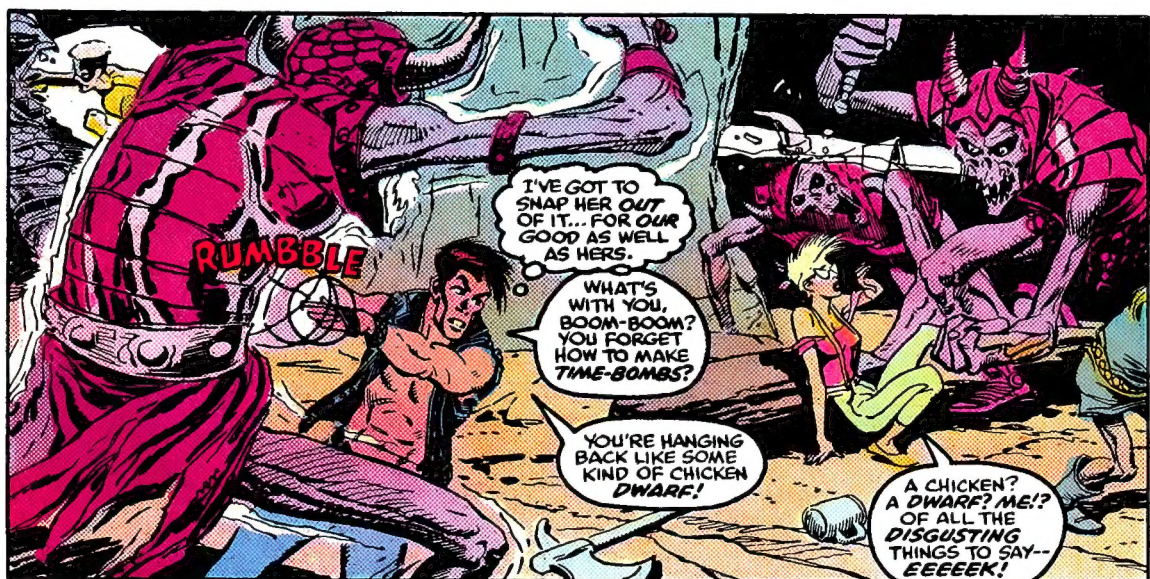
FINE SENTIMENT,
RAHNE. BUT DANI'S
BECOME LIKE THESE
THINGS. SHE MAY NOW
HAVE JOINED THEM
OF HER OWN FREE
WILL.

KLONG!

IF SHE IS LIKE
THESE CREATURES,
FRIEND BOBBY, SHE
MAY HAVE NO FREE
WILL LEFT.

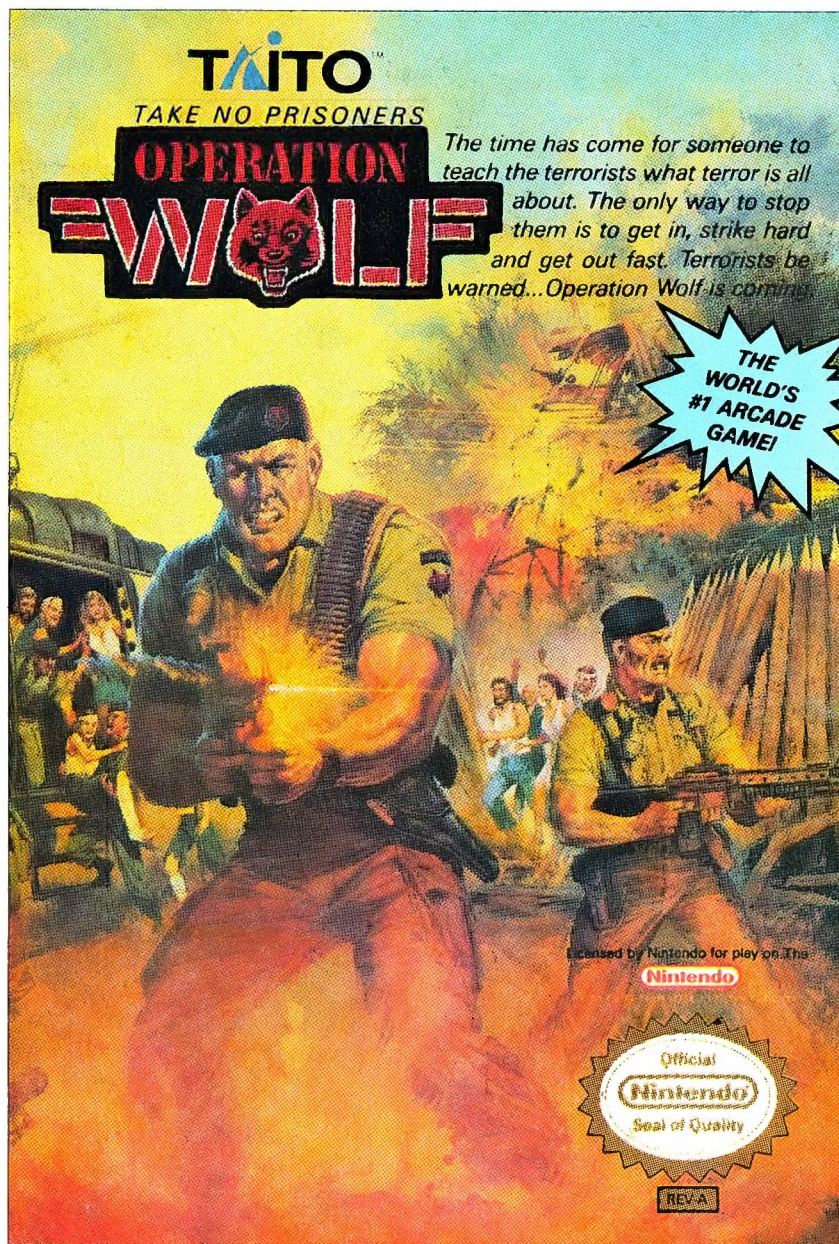
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH BOOM-
BOOM? WE FACED
MONSTERS...
EVEN DEMONS...
DURING
INFERNO.

BUT ASGARD HAS HER
SO TERRIFIED SHE CAN
HARDLY MOVE, EVEN
THE DWARFS FREAK
HER OUT... AND
THEY'RE OUR
ALLIES!



TAKE NO PRISONERS.

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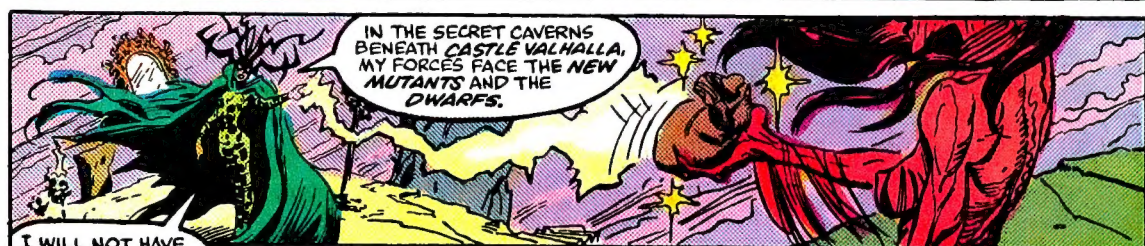
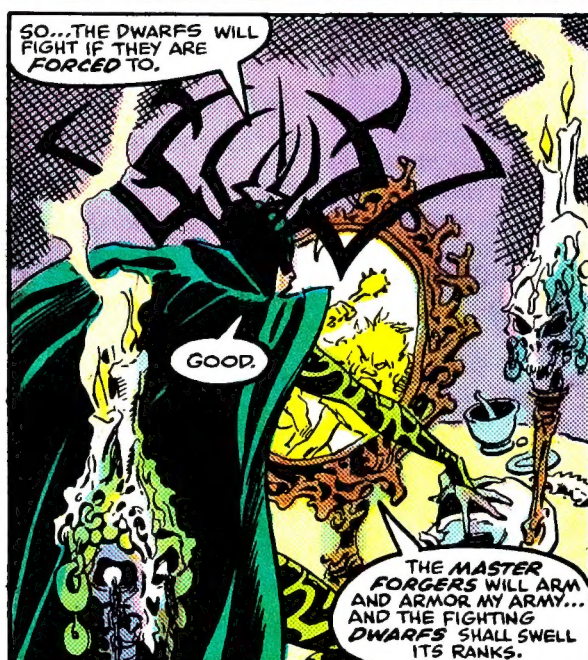


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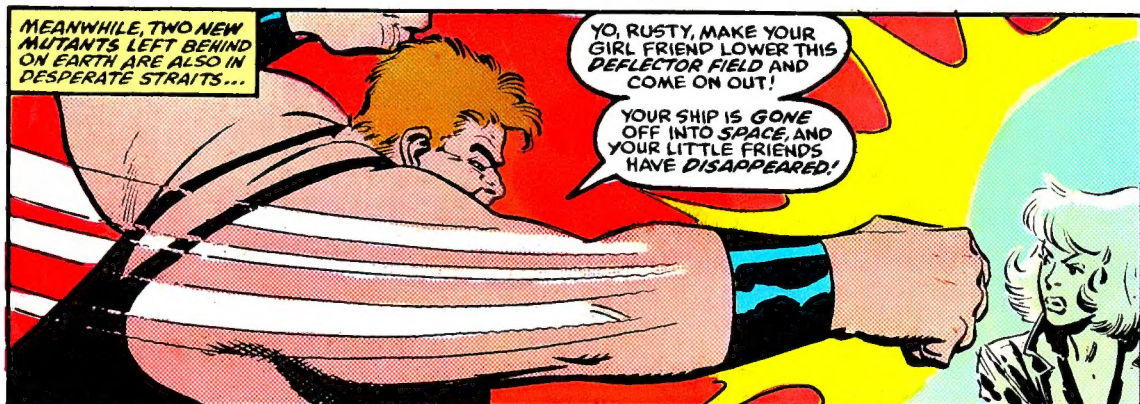
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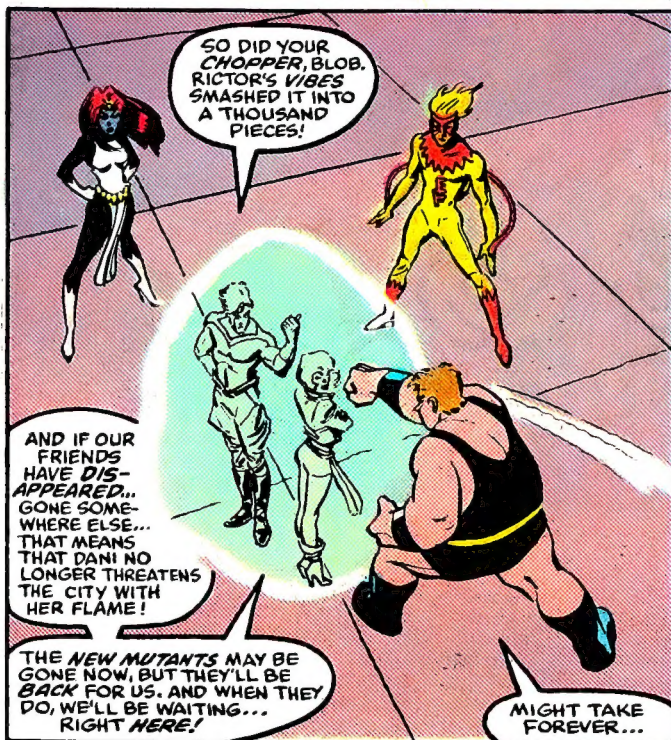
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MEANWHILE, TWO NEW
MUTANTS LEFT BEHIND
ON EARTH ARE ALSO IN
DESPERATE STRAITS...

YO, RUSTY, MAKE YOUR
GIRL FRIEND LOWER THIS
DEFLECTOR FIELD AND
COME ON OUT!

YOUR SHIP IS GONE
OFF INTO SPACE, AND
YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS
HAVE DISAPPEARED!



SO DID YOUR
CHOPPER, BLOB.
RICTOR'S VIBES
SMASHED IT INTO
A THOUSAND
PIECES!

AND IF OUR
FRIENDS
HAVE DIS-
APPEARED...
GONE SOME-
WHERE ELSE...
THAT MEANS
THAT DANI NO
LONGER THREATENS
THE CITY WITH
HER FLAME!

THE NEW MUTANTS MAY BE
GONE NOW, BUT THEY'LL BE
BACK FOR US. AND WHEN THEY
DO, WE'LL BE WAITING...
RIGHT HERE!

MIGHT TAKE
FOREVER...



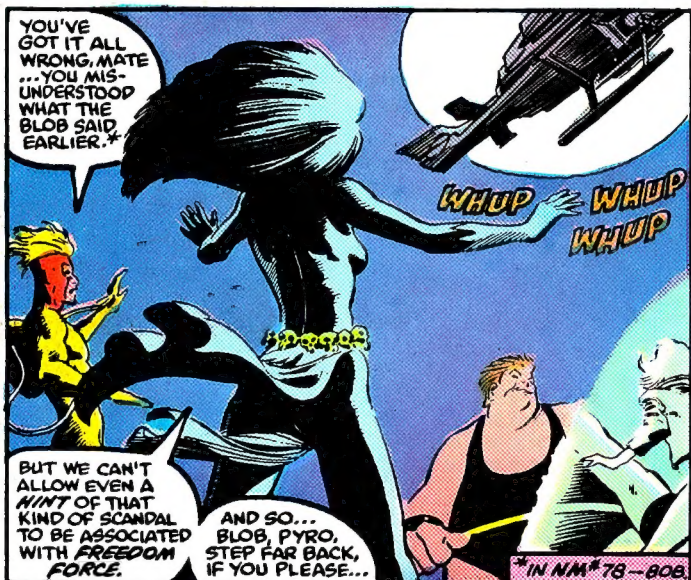
WE WON'T HAVE TO WAIT THAT
LONG. JUST TILL MORNING,
WHEN THE TOURISTS ARRIVE...

WE'LL TELL
THEM ALL ABOUT
FREEDOM FORCE...
AND THE MUTANT
CHILDREN YOU'VE
KIDNAPED.



PROBABLY GET A LOT OF MEDIA COVERAGE,
TOO. "MUTANTS IMPRISONED ON LIBERTY
ISLAND"... THAT KIND OF THING.

WE'LL BLOW YOUR NASTY LITTLE
CONSPIRACY SKY-HIGH.



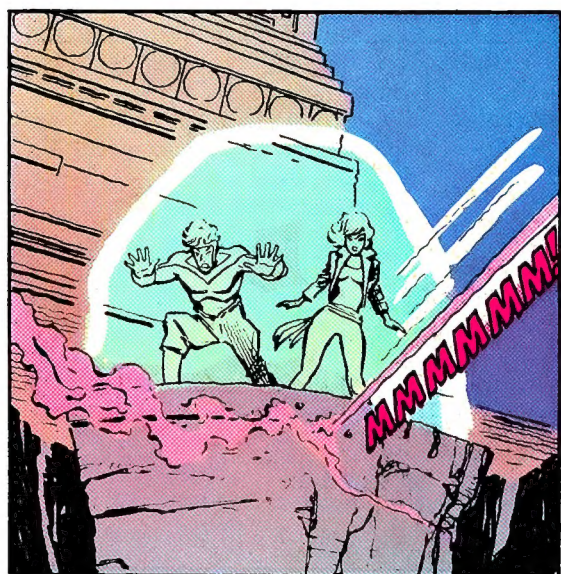
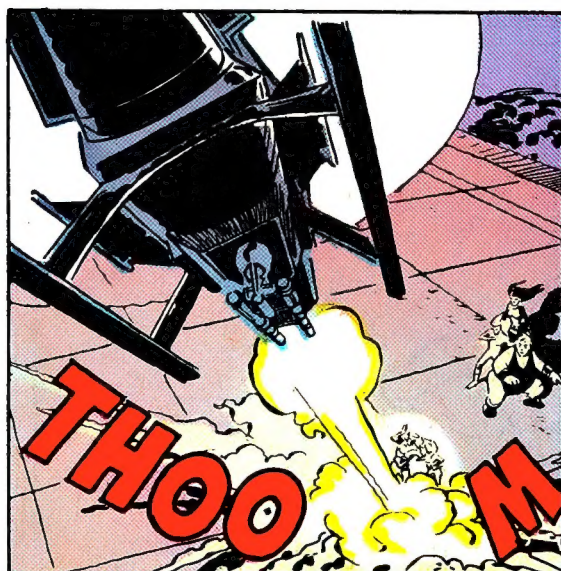
YOU'VE
GOT IT ALL
WRONG, MATE
...YOU MIS-
UNDERSTOOD
WHAT THE
BLOB SAID
EARLIER.*

WHUP WHUP
WHUP

BUT WE CAN'T
ALLOW EVEN A
HINT OF THAT
KIND OF SCANDAL
TO BE ASSOCIATED
WITH FREEDOM
FORCE.

AND SO...
BLOB, PYRO,
STEP FAR BACK,
IF YOU PLEASE...

*IN NM*78-808.



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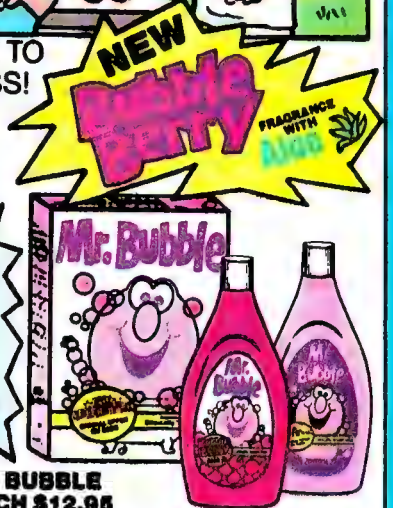
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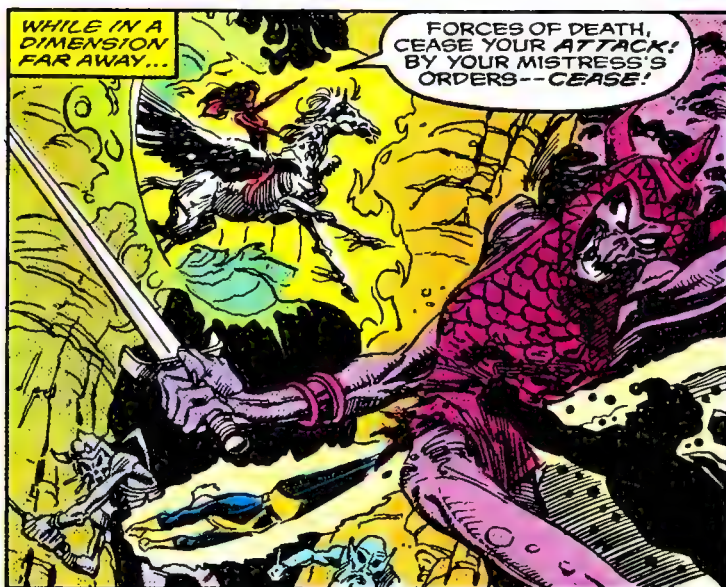


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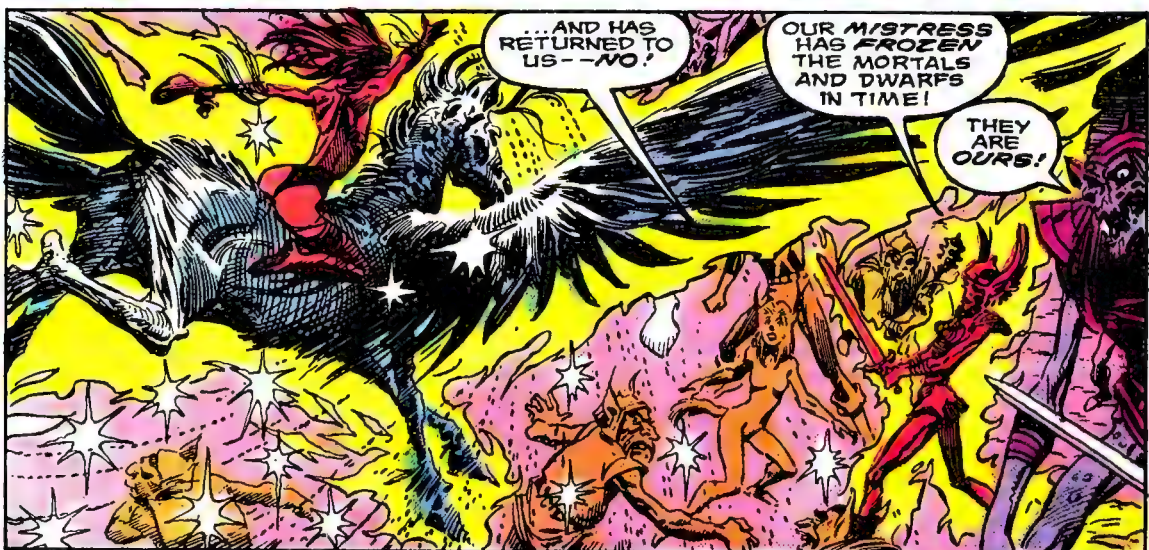
WHILE IN A
DIMENSION
FAR AWAY...

FORCES OF DEATH,
CEASE YOUR ATTACK!
BY YOUR MISTRESS'S
ORDERS--CEASE!



DANI!

'TIS WONDERFUL!
SHE HAS CONQUERED
HER DEMON...



...AND HAS
RETURNED TO
US--NO!

OUR MISTRESS
HAS FROZEN
THE MORTALS
AND DWARFS
IN TIME!

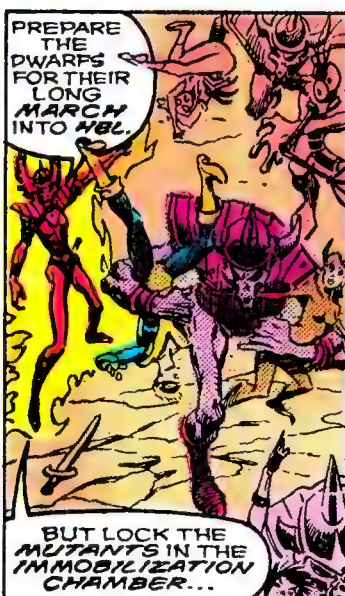
THEY
ARE
OURS!



MY MISTRESS HAS NEED OF
YOU LIVING, DWARF LORD,
TO FORGE FOR HER THE
ULTIMATE DEATH TOOL!

ODIN
SHALL LEARN OF
THIS! IT IS AGAINST
HIS RULE THAT THE
LIVING BE TAKEN!
HELA'S FIEFDOM
IS THE DEAD!

AND SO, IN TIME,
MASTER FORGER,
SHALL YOU BE.
THAT HELA
PROMISES!



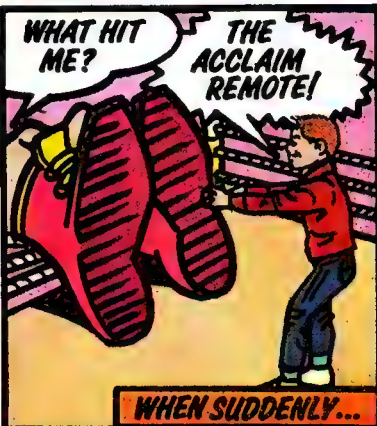
PREPARE
THE
DWARFS
FOR THEIR
LONG
MARCH
INTO NBL.

BUT LOCK THE
MUTANTS IN THE
IMMOBILIZATION
CHAMBER...



...WHERE THEIR
DEATHS WILL BE
SO IGNOMINIOUS
THAT EVEN BY LORD
ODIN'S LAW...

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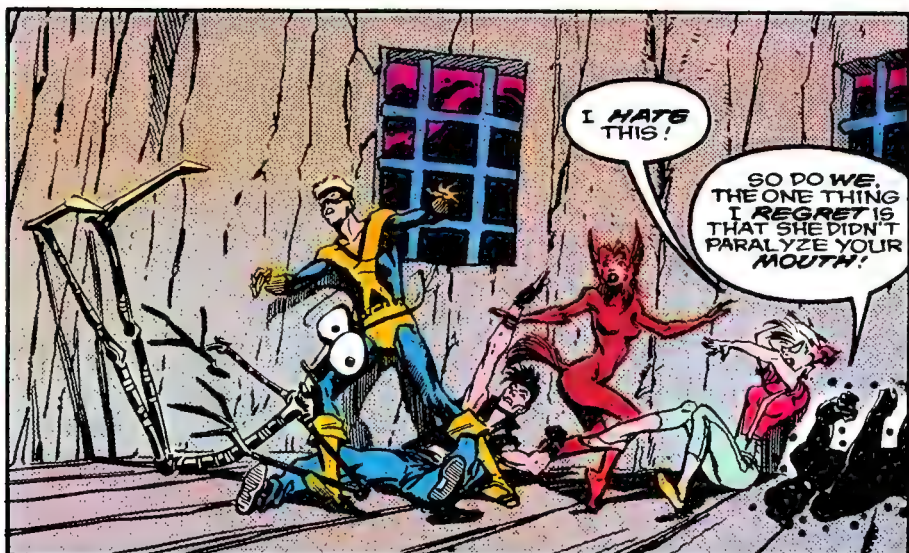
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"...OUR MISTRESS WILL HAVE UNDISPUTED CLAIM TO THEIR SOULS."

ALL WE'VE DONE RECENTLY IS FIGHT MONSTERS AND BE CAPTURED... BUT THIS IS THE ABSOLUTE WORST!



I HATE THIS!

SO DO WE. THE ONE THING I REGRET IS THAT SHE DIDN'T PARALYZE YOUR MOUTH!



SHUT UP, BOBBY! HOW CAN YOU JOKE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

WHO'S JOKING...?

IF WE'D ESCAPED WHEN I BLEW OFF THE CAVERN ROOF*, INSTEAD OF TEAMING UP WITH THOSE DISGUSTING DWARFS WE'D BE FREE...

...NOT FROZEN LIKE STATUES!

* IN NM #19--808.



IT'S ALL SAM'S FAULT, WHO APPOINTED HIM LEADER IN THE FIRST PLACE?

'TIS NOT SAM'S FAULT! AND WE... THE ORIGINAL NEW MUTANTS... MADE SAM AND DANI CO-LEADERS TOGETHER!

AND SAM DID THE RIGHT THING! EITRI IS SAM'S FRIEND AND WE NEW MUTANTS STICK BY OUR FRIENDS...

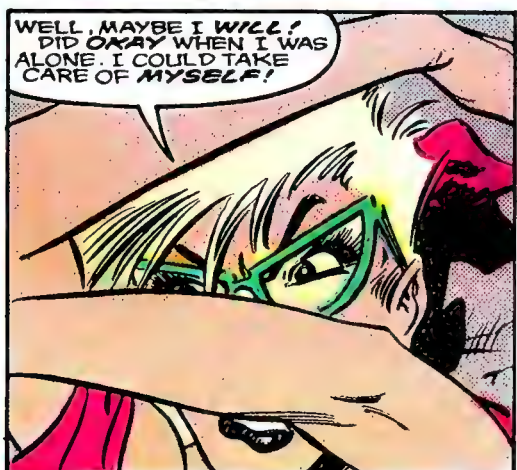


...AND IF THE VALKYRIES KNEW WE WERE IN THE CAVERNS, IT WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU SET OFF THAT TIME BOMB AND CALLED THEIR ATTENTION TO US.*

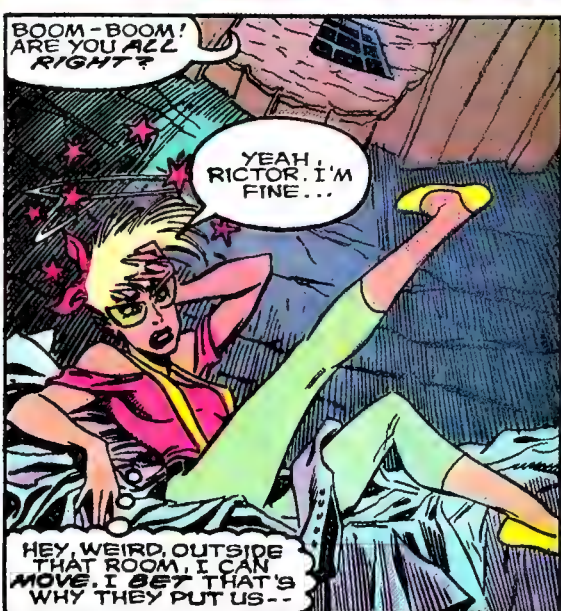
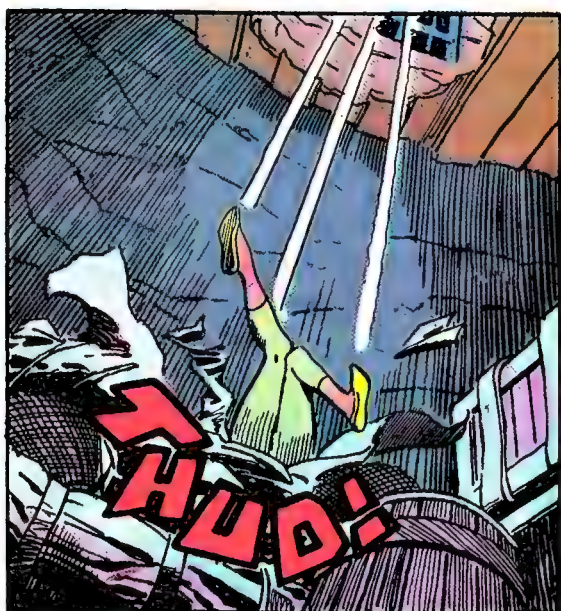
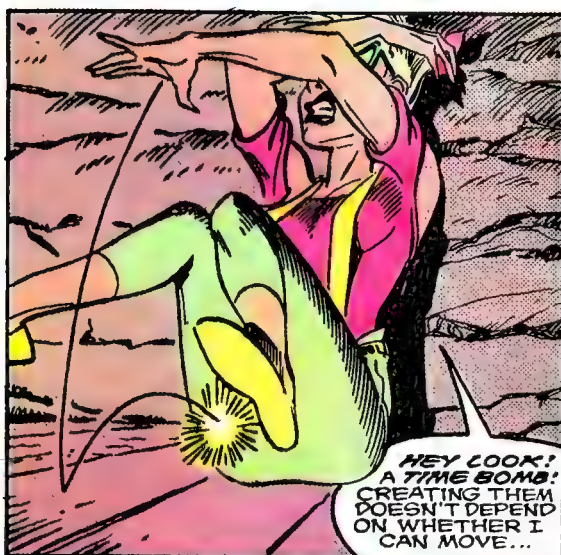
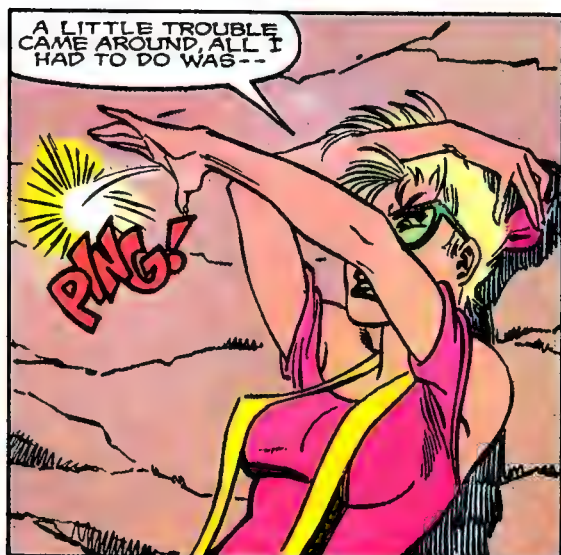
YOU'RE NEW... AND RICTOR IS, TOO, BUT NOBODY MADE YOU JOIN US!

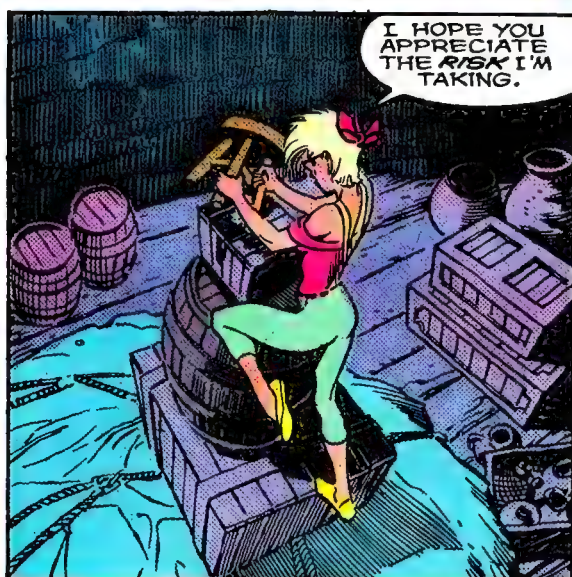
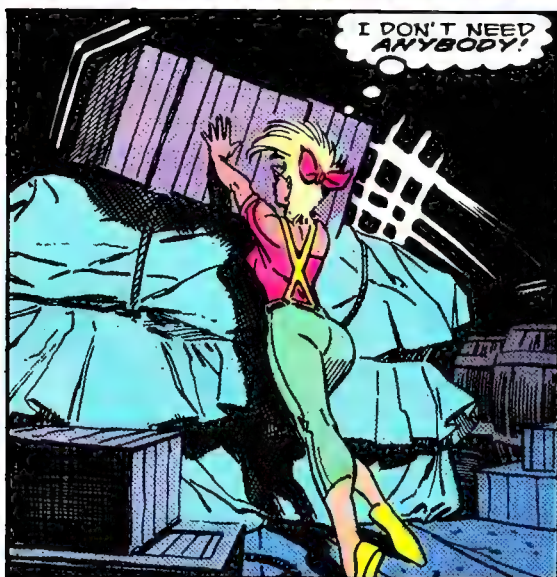
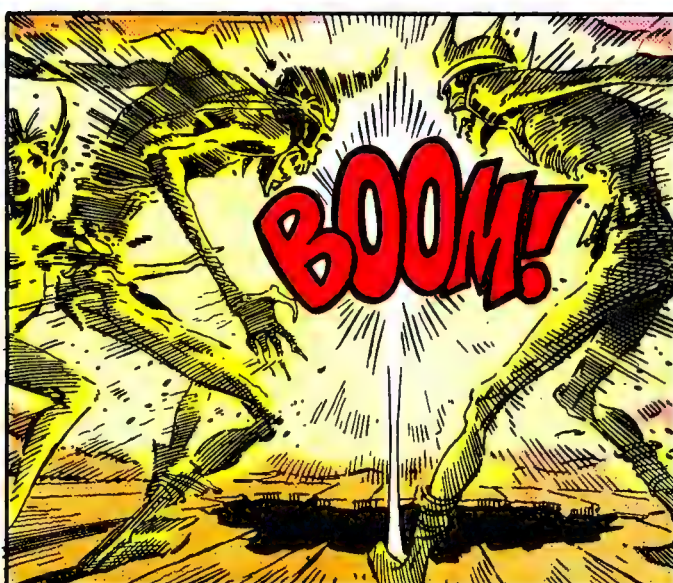
IF YOU DON'T LIKE SAM'S DECISIONS, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD LEAVE!

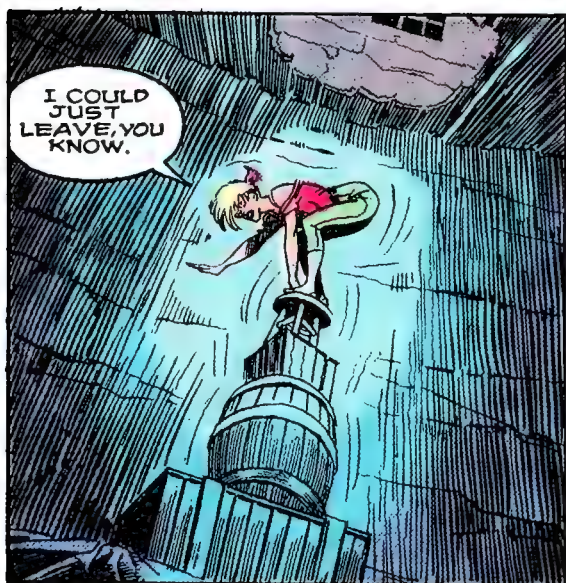
* WHICH IS PRECISELY WHAT HAPPENED-- SCORE-KEEPER 808.



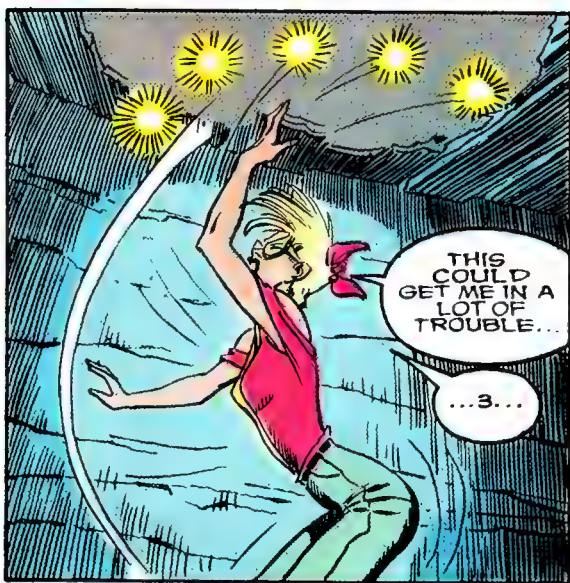
WELL, MAYBE I WILL! DID OKAY WHEN I WAS ALONE. I COULD TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!







I COULD JUST LEAVE, YOU KNOW.



THIS COULD GET ME IN A LOT OF TROUBLE...
...3...

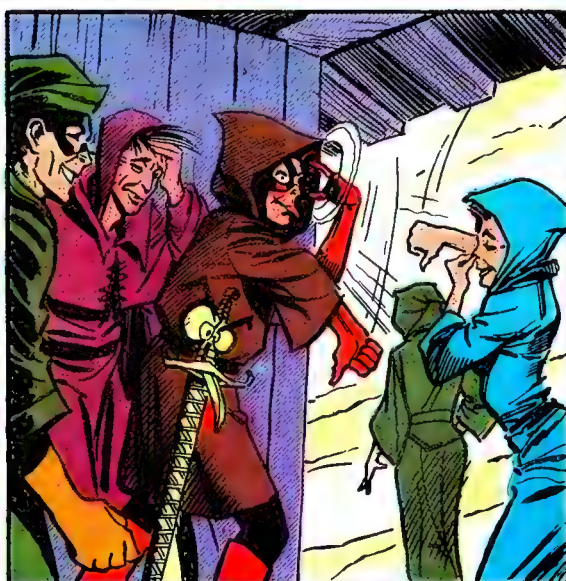
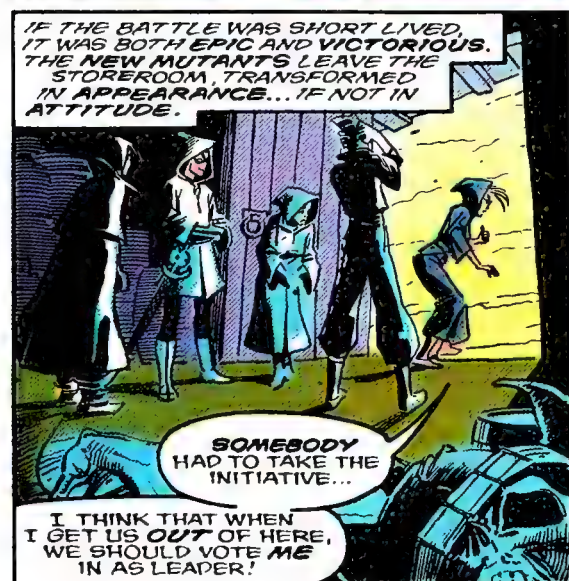
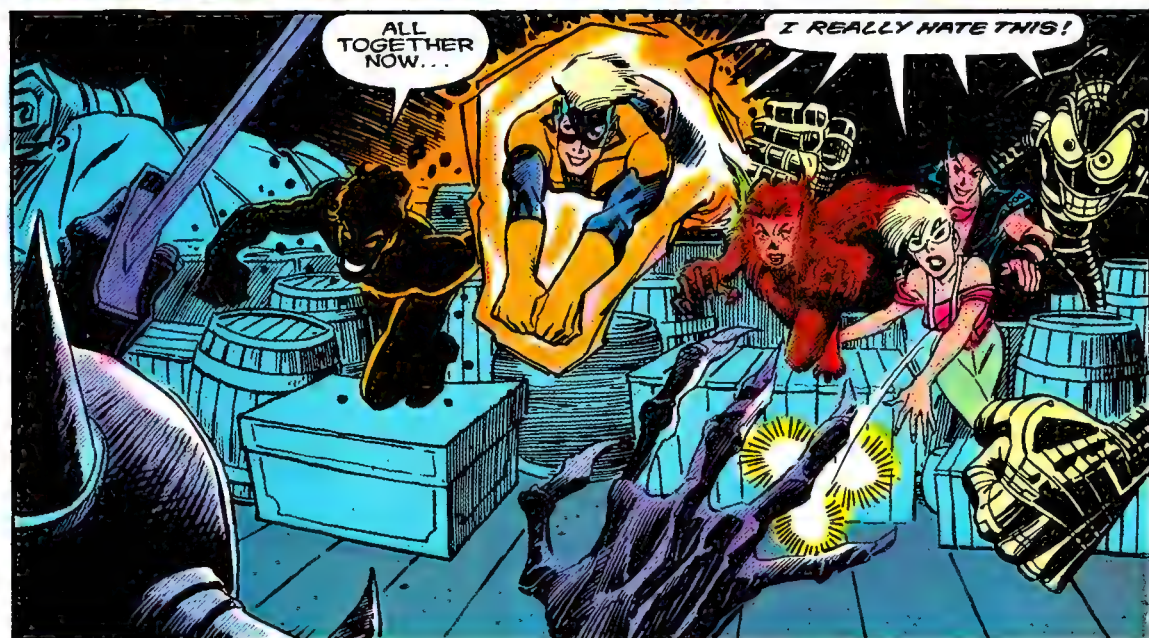
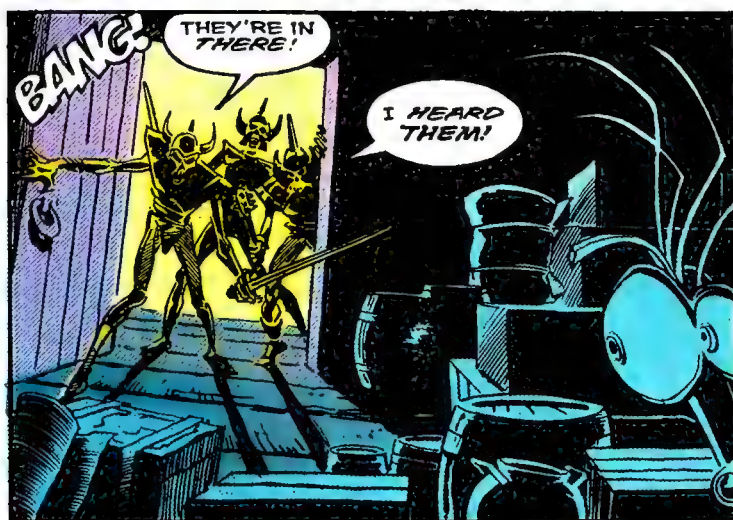


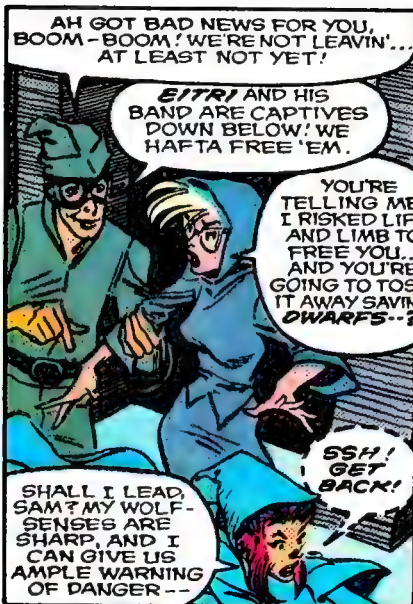
I DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER.
...2...

...1...

BOOM!







AH GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU, BOOM-BOOM! WE'RE NOT LEAVIN'... AT LEAST NOT YET!

EITRI AND HIS BAND ARE CAPTIVES DOWN BELOW! WE HAFTA FREE 'EM.

YOU'RE TELLING ME I RISKED LIFE AND LIMB TO FREE YOU... AND YOU'RE GOING TO TOSS IT AWAY SAVING DWARFS--?

SSH! GET BACK!

SHALL I LEAD, SAM? MY WOLF-SENSES ARE SHARP, AND I CAN GIVE US AMPLE WARNING OF DANGER---

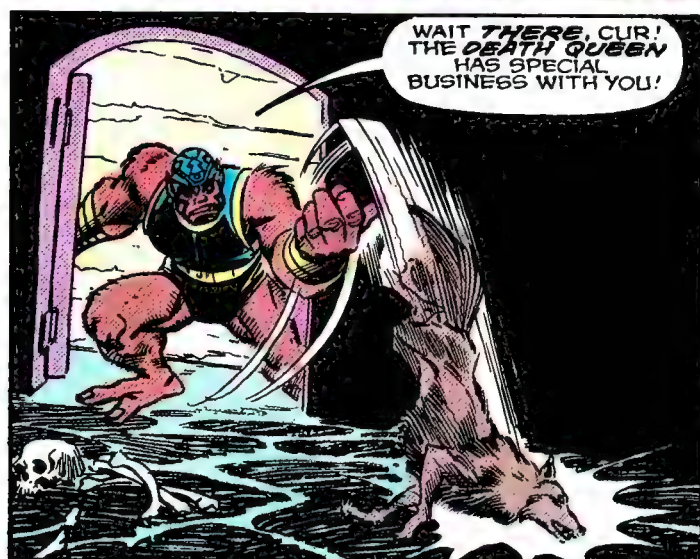


TROLLS. THEY HAVE A PRISONER.

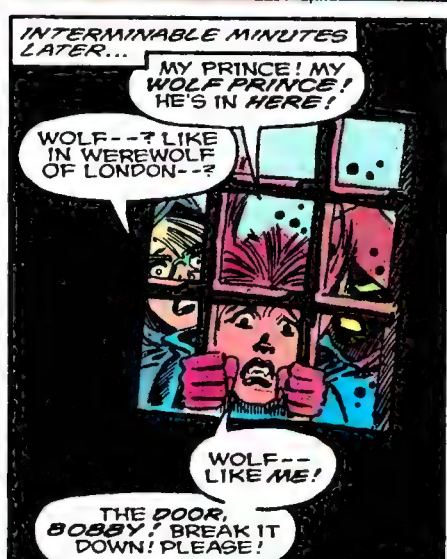
LOOKS MORE LIKE A RATTY OLD FUR COAT! WHAT IS IT?

MY WOLF PRINCE!

SELF-FRIEND, WAIT!



WAIT THERE, CUR! THE DEATH QUEEN HAS SPECIAL BUSINESS WITH YOU!



INTERMINABLE MINUTES LATER...

MY PRINCE! MY WOLF PRINCE! HE'S IN HERE!

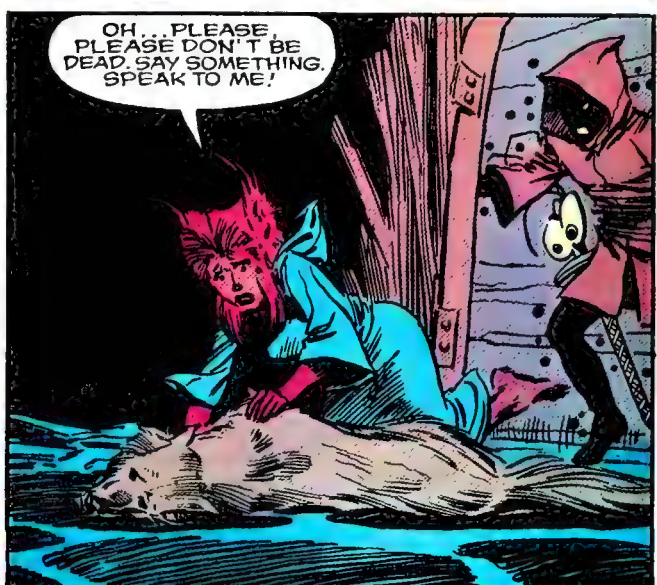
WOLF--? LIKE IN WEREWOLF OF LONDON--?

WOLF-- LIKE ME!

THE DOOR, BOBBY! BREAK IT DOWN! PLEASE!



KRRASH!



OH... PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T BE DEAD. SAY SOMETHING. SPEAK TO ME!



I WAS DREAMING...
THOU WER'T PART
OF MY DREAM...

...BUT
THOU ART
HERE... AND
REAL...

HOW...?
WHY...?



DANI... YOU
REMEMBER HER, DON'T
YOU... WAS CHOSEN TO
BE A *VALKYRIE*... AND
WHEN THE *VALKYRIES*
WERE *POSSESSED*,
SHE WAS, TOO.

FOR SOME
REASON, WE WERE
TRANSPORTED
HERE *WITH* HER...
AND WE'RE GOING
TO GET HER
BACK!



NO, THOU MUSTN'T
EVEN THINK IT. THE
DANGER IS TOO GREAT.
THOU MUST BE AWAY
FROM HERE, AND
QUICKLY!

HE'S
TALKING
GOOD SENSE,
GUYS... EVEN IF
HE IS A
WEREWOLF.

SHUT UP,
BOOM-BOOM.
CAN YOU
WALK?

WITH
HELP,
PERHAPS.

GOOD.
WHILE
WE GET
OUTTA
HERE...



"... YOU CAN FILL US IN ON WHAT'S
BEEN GOIN' ON...?"

YOU'VE
SEEN THAT
THE *VALKYRIES*
HAVE BECOME FIRE
DEMONS.

THEY
ATTACKED
MY PACK IN THE
FOREST. I HELD
THEM OFF, WHILE
MY PEOPLE
FLED

BUT... WHY
THE
WOLVES...?

THERE ARE NO BETTER
SCOUTS IN ALL OF THE
NINE-WORLDS. THE *VALKYRIES*
WANTED US TO SERVE
HELA'S ARMY.



HELA?!?
THE DEATH
GODDESS?!

BUT WHY DOES
SHE NEED DEMON
VALKYRIES...
AND *SCOUTS*?

WHY DOES
HELA
NEED AN
ARMY?

HELA HATH SUBOURNED THE VALKYRIES... WHO HAVE IN TURN, ENTRALLED THE EINHERAR.

SHE PLANS TO ATTACK ASGARD ITSELF.

IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO REACH THAT *NIGH*, SHE IS THE ONE YOU MUST DEFEAT. IF YOU ARE TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND.



THE DWARF-LORD EITRI IS MINE... AND MY ARMY DOTH SWELL WITH THE CREAM OF ASGARD'S WARRIORS.



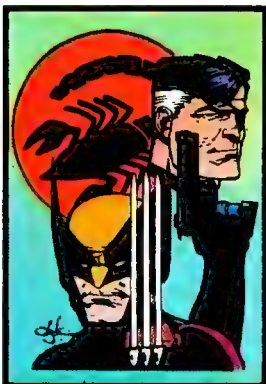
BUT THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE ESCAPED THEIR CELL! THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SLIP FROM THE CASTLE!

THE NEED FOR SECRECY IS STILL TOO GREAT.

DRIVE MY LIVING CAPTIVES FROM THE DUNGEONS, MY VALKYRIES, AND INTO THE COURTYARD...



...WHILE I BEGIN THE SPELL THAT WILL SEPARATE VALHALLA FROM THE REST OF ASGARD, AND LINK IT DIRECTLY TO MY OWN DIMENSION OF *HEL*.



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LOOK! HELA'S
CAPTIVES ARE
BEING HERDED
INTO THE
COURTYARD!

MOVE,
YE TROLLS
AND DWARFS!
ONWARD, YE
GIANTS AND
FAIRIES!

WHAT'S WITH
THE AIR IN THE
COURTYARD? IT
LOOKS LIKE IT'S
TEARING
OPEN!

IT'S LIKE
THERE'S A
YAWNING
HOLE TA
NOWHERE!

BY TIWAZ,
ICY REALM!
HELA HAS
OPENED A
PORTAL
INTO
HEL--!



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HOW DARE SHE
CREATE SUCH A
WARP IN THE
DIMENSION
RULED BY
LORD ODIN?

HAS SHE GROWN
SO POWERFUL
THAT SHE WOULD
FACE **HIS** WRATH
WITH IMPUNITY?

COME!
WE MUST GO TO
ASGARD... WE
MUST TELL HIM
WHAT HAS COME
TO PASS!



ASGARD'S
FAIR AWAY
FROM HERE! BY
THE TIME WE
GET BACK,
EITRI AND THE
DWARFS
AND DANI AND
ALL THE
OTHERS WILL
BE GONE!

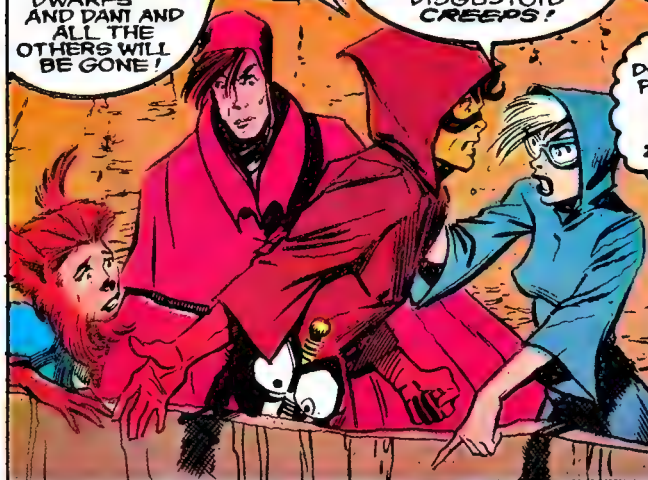
WE HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING
NOW.

GET **REAL**, BOBBY!
EVEN WITH THE
DWARFS **FREE**,
THERE'S NO WAY WE
CAN WIN AGAINST
HELA AND THOSE
DISGUSTOID
CREEPS!

I SAY WE
DO WHAT
THE WOLF
PRINCE
SAYS AND
SPLIT!

HALF OUR TEAM...
MAGMA, DOUG, DANI,
MAGIK, RUSTY AND
SKIDS... GONE... SOME
FOR GOOD...
AND BOOM-
BOOM AND
RICTOR
ARE NEW.

WE'VE
DONE OKAY SO FAR,
FROM SHEER, DUMB
LUCK, BUT WE
AREN'T USED TO
WORKING
TOGETHER YET.



IN THE OLD
DAYS WE **MIGHT**
HAVE ATTACKED
HELA ALONE AND
PULLED IT OFF...
WE'VE BEAT WORSE
ODDS THAN THIS
BEFORE.

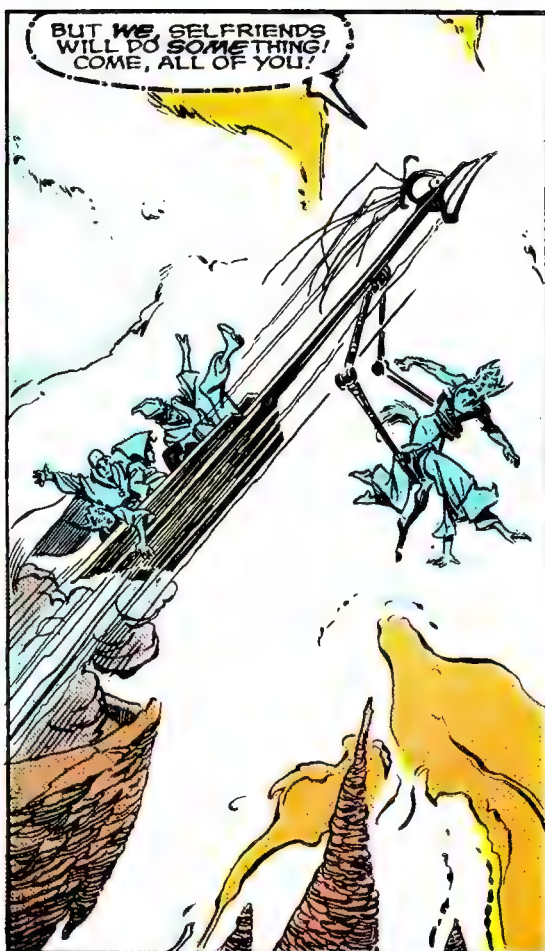
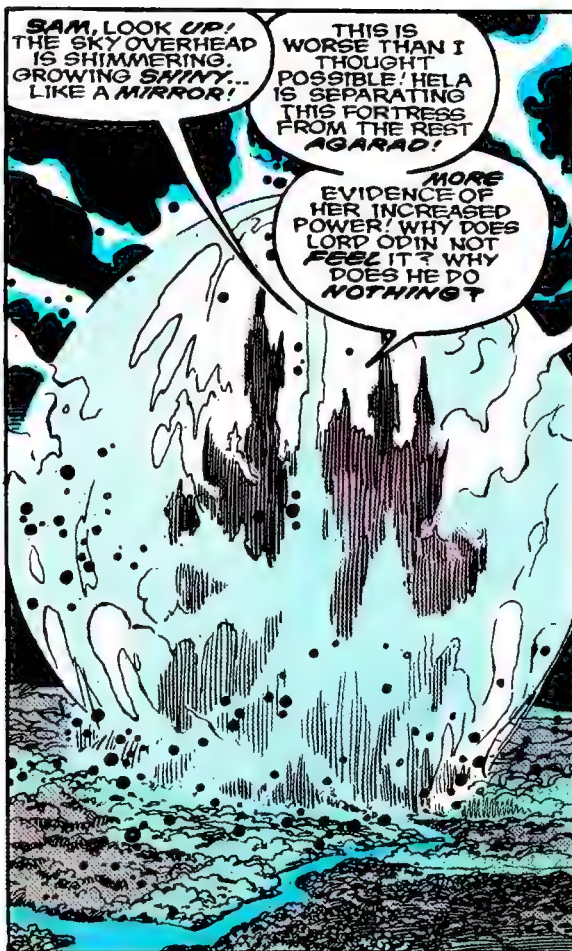


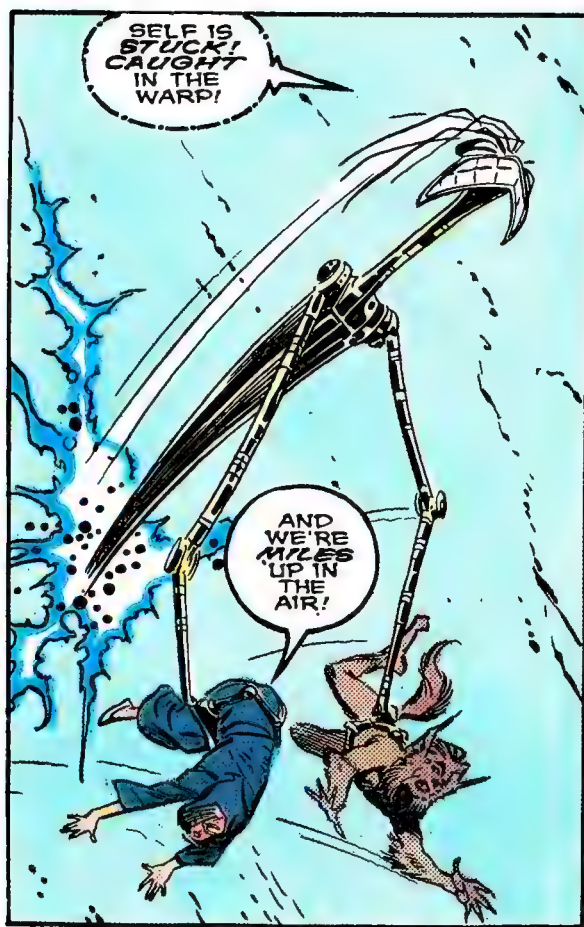
BUT THE **LAST** TIME
WE THOUGHT THAT
WAY, **DOUG RAMSEY**
GOT **KILLED!**

THIS IS TOO
BIG TA BLOW ON
MACHO HEROICS.
BOBBY, THE FATE
OF ASGARD AN' A
LOTTA LIVES
ARE DEPENDIN'
ON US!

SO WE DO WHAT
THE WOLF-PRINCE
SUGGESTS!

WE GET OUTTA
HERE... AS QUIET
AND QUICK AS WE
CAN... AND WE
CALL IN THE
BIG GUYS. WE
TELL **LORD**
ODIN WHAT'S
GOIN' ON!







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SAM, BOBBY RAYNE AND RICTOR JOURNEY INTO HEL, WHILE BOOM-BOOM, THE WOLF-PRINCE AND WARLOCK MAKE THEIR DEBUT AS THE NEW...

WARRIORS THREE!?!?

DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE AS THE WEAPON IS FORGED AND HELA'S PLOT IS REVEALED!

REPORT CARD

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Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Marvel,

I'll be straight with you. Even though I've been with this title since day one, it has never been one of my favorites. While it does have its good times (I did enjoy the recent Inferno storyline), it can be just plain awful. (That whole Gossamyr situation. At least you got rid of her.) I have on a few occasions come close to dropping NEW MUTANTS, but then something would come up to keep me with it. I don't know. Maybe it's just that I think the NEW MUTANTS has great potential for becoming one of Marvel's better mags. Anyway, while I could probably go on all day if I set my mind to it, here are a few remarks and suggestions.

1.) One reason I haven't dropped this book in recent months is Magik, and I think she should be brought back somehow.

2.) The other reason is Magneto. Watching him try to reform, along with his dealings with the Hellfire Club really kept my interest. Now that it looks like he's a villain again, let us see a major confrontation between him and the Mutants sometime in the future.

3.) I've seen a remark on the letters page that I totally agree with. Their costumes stink! Either improve them or just have them wear the original X-Man uniforms.

4.) I think it's about time they quit coming off like amateurs. (A recent example of this is the incredibly easy way Magneto just shrugged them off with barely a gesture in ish #75). The mutants have seen enough action by now where they should be able to handle themselves better. Of course a lot of this has to do with leadership, personnel, etc., which I will get into in a minute.

5.) Since the New Mutants have been around for a while now, maybe a name change is in order. And since it looks like a merger of sorts (which I think is good) seems to be happening with the X-Terminators, perhaps that title would be more appropriate.

6.) As co-captains Cannonball and Mirage, while handling themselves pretty well, don't quite cut it as leaders. A better choice would be Magik (assuming she will be back) or Rusty of the X-Terminators (assuming he'll join).

7.) Get rid of Wolfsbane and Warlock. "Nuff said."

8.) This power of materializing your heart's desire that Mirage has acquired just seems a little too convenient and ridiculous at times. Something should be done about this.

9.) I would like to see this lineup. Cannonball, Magik, Mirage and Sunspot with the additions of Rusty, Skids, Boom Boom and Rictor to their ranks.

Actually there are a few other things I would like to comment on but I don't want to make this too long, so I'll stop here for now and see what develops in future issues.

William Blevins
135 Spencer
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Mirage's convenient power is being dealt with, William. And we agree that Rusty would make a good team leader... but we don't know how Dani'll feel about it.

Hi people!

Curiouser and curiouser!

Magneto is one sneaky devil. Of course, the frustration (and the fun) is that we don't know how much of Magneto's impassioned speeches were said for the benefit of those listening. He is playing a very dangerous game right now. Manipulating forces such as the inner circle and the new mutants is treading on very thin ice indeed. And truth to tell, none of us knows his true goal.

I, for one, hope Magnus is fighting secretly for a noble cause. I like him as a hero. We have come to understand the tragedy that has been his life, and admire his ability to rise above it. I would like to see everything eventually resolved and him return as headmaster of Xavier's school. And one suggestion: have him enlist the aid of his daughter and son-in-law as teachers at the school. It would be an excellent setting to raise the children of the Vision and Scarlet Witch. Or do you have a possible merger of Xavier's school and the Massachusetts Academy in the future? Whatever, Louise, I'm sure it will be good.

Well, looking forward to next issue. See you later!

Doug Tennant
1816 Brett St. #10
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Magneto will be enlisting the aid of his daughter, the Scarlet Witch, in the pages of AVENGERS WEST COAST #55 on sale soon... so watch for it. (And, yeah, come to think of it, he is a sneaky guy, isn't he? Hmmm...)

Dearest Mutates,

Bravo for pulling the NEW MUTANTS out of their long slump! The Inferno crossover series has shown disheartened fans that this title is one of the stars in the Marvel Universe. I myself wrote a scathing letter of complaint to your department a few months ago. May this revival live long and prosper!

Now down to business. Ilyana is finally free of her magicks. However this brings up some pressing questions. Didn't Belasco say at the end of X-MEN #159 that when she reached womanhood and learned the measure of the arts arcane that "a glorious destiny would become her"? Or has that already happened? What did he mean? Will Ilyana regain her lost years? If she doesn't, will this happen to Kitty Pryde? How will this affect Excalibur? What happened to Belasco in the first place?

Your development of Mirage has been great! Reinroduce the Valkyries so she can further learn about her powers. I hope she develops a good relationship with Thunderbird, but if she does, don't make it too easy for either one.

Cannonball has always done well, but try to toughen him up a bit. Wolfsbane is too innocent for this line of work. She needs to come to grips with her sexuality. Sunspot seems to have gotten his ego under control. Don't let him revert to his old ways.

I don't know what you are doing, but keep it up. Until Wolverine takes up ballet, Make

Marvel Mine!

Mike McPhail
(Address withheld by request)

Wolvie in a tutu, Mike? We'll get right on it...

Dear Bob,

Okay, I've got to give you guys some credit; you have done a pretty good job on the New Mutants. However, I have a few ideas which you may like to think about.

First of all, make the team larger again. Maybe you could bring back Karma or introduce a new character. How about having Fire Star join the team. Professor X once offered her membership, but after the mini-series she just seemed to vanish.

Second, have more stories that deal with one member of the team having personal problems. These stories allow you to get to know the characters better.

And finally, *bring back Magik!!!* She was by far the most interesting of your characters and what do you do, you make her six years old. Just think about it, how are the New Mutants going to travel all over the universe with no one to teleport them? And a magic spell can always come in handy every now and then. Pick on Mirage, nothing ever happens to her.

Guess that's about it. Before I go though, answer one more question. What is this plan the Hellfire Club has for Amara that is mentioned in last summer's annual?

Chris Crowell
200 Mic Mac Blvd. #205
Dartmouth N.S. B3A-4L5

Make the team larger, Chris! You mean, in addition to Rusty, Skids, Boom Boom, Bobby, Sam, Rahne, Warlock, Rictor and Dani!? AAARGGH!

Dear Mutie Lovers...

I almost considered dropping this title a few months ago, back with that lousy Bird Brain storyline. In addition to a story going nowhere and artwork that I wasn't too fond of, there wasn't much incentive for me to drop my 100 cents each month. But then you promised big changes for Ilyana, my favorite character, so I stayed around.

Lots of changes going on here. And now I'm a bit curious.

First of all, I finally got used to Blevins' artwork. And then you bring in Buckler and Palmer. I hope it's not permanent. The old and weird days of Sienkiewicz are over! Blevins makes the kids actually look like kids. Keep him.

But on to the story. As I mentioned, the "Fall of the Mutants" storyline wasn't all that impressive, and all of the characters all seemed more angry than sad over Doug's death (although Magneto did have cause to be angry, but he was still a bit bland in his response). The "resurrection" of Doug was fairly interesting, with Warlock's confusion over the concept of death. But that was still a useless issue.

Finally, we come to the big change. Ilyana "de-evolved" back to the way she was before Belasco nabbed her. Great! I figured it would either be that or she would make the "ultimate sacrifice" and seal herself and all the demons in Limbo, fighting forever. But wait! When Colossus broke her shell open, wasn't she wearing the necklace Belasco gave her? It's not too clear. And if she was wearing it, where did it go come next issue?

Congratulations on getting rid of Gossamyr. Thank you, oh thank you. Get rid of that romantic love triangle you are attempting to form between Sam, Rusty, and Skids. All the

boys going nuts over Gossamyr was bad enough. Get Sam back with Lila, who we all know is not dead (she managed to teleport somewhere but she's not strong enough to return to Earth yet, we know the whole story). Develop that relationship, which hasn't been explored as much as it should have (as far as I know, only in NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #1 and that Cannonball solo story from issue 30-40 something). The fate of Illyana? We know her storyline still exists, because Limbo is still around and, according to Dr. Strange (from waaay back in that X-MEN Kulan Gath storyline from #190-something), she has the potential for magical powers. Have Strange (or some other mystic, maybe Shaman of Alpha Flight) take her under their wing and train her. Then hopefully you can explain the origins behind the armor suit (although I guess it formed more when her darkchild side began to take over) and the link between her and Kitty (don't forget Excalibur #8). AND THE MOST IMPORTANT: Whatever you do, please, I beg you, do not forget that little piece of circuitry behind Doug's eye in issue #53!! We've all figured out what's going to happen. Five years from now, Doug pops back up, now completely transformed into a circuitry creature, which will make Warlock the Magus, and the two will have to fight each other. Please. Surprise us.

I've been cheating and looking ahead, and I hear Dani's going to get space sickness and the Mutants will go back to Asgard again. Don't screw this one up! Tie up some loose ends from New Mutants Special #1. Don't forget Rahne's Wolf-Prince and everyone else who was up there when the Mutants last visited. The title's become better, and I will continue with it, but please—watch yourselves.

James Kwak
Box 508 Haggin
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40526-0111

We are, James, we are! Hope that you're enjoying the New Mutant's current sojourn in Asgard, and we didn't forget the Wolf-Prince. Nor did we forget about Doug's circuitry . . . whatever that means . . .

Dear Marvelous People,

To start off, I must tell you that I have found most of your "Mutant Books" most enjoyable. The concept of normal people becoming extraordinarily powerful because of a genetic quirk is wonderful. Out of all of your Marvel Books, I believe these books: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, EXCALIBUR, X-TERMINATORS, POWER PACK, and NEW MUTANTS are probably your most wonderful books. Enough soft soap. Let's get to the matter at hand, I have been collecting the NEW MUTANTS for 3 years now and also have quite a good collection. In other words, I think I know the characters pretty well, so I feel obligated to tell you that I feel you are not keeping continuity with your characters. It seems in the last 12-14 issues you have changed some of your characters. For example:

Sam Guthrie: in the beginning he was a young man who wasn't sure of himself or his powers. Through the training of Professor X, he learned to overcome his insecurities by making him co-team captain. This way he thought of his teammates instead of himself. Now I feel that you've made him unsure of himself again. It seems that he's having hard times making decisions. Why?

Warlock: a techno-organic creature who

that any teens could show any feelings of responsibility or be at all a little antisocial. at first was naive about this new place called earth (and that was understandable), but he has been on earth long enough to get into the swing of things. What is his problem?

Rahne (Wolfsbane): when is she ever going to get over her relationship with the good old reverend? To me it seems she only has three emotions; hate: "I hate you, Mirage," guilt: "It's all my fault Doug's dead," and sympathy: "Poor thing, she's all alone." Let's see what Rahne is really like, give her a wider range of emotions.

Illyana Rasputin—what on god's green earth did you do to her? Here she was, I thought, a character with great potential, and what do you do? Change her back to a little girl. That to me was a big mistake. The story potential was awesome. Imagine what would have happened if Magik had overcome the evil influence of Limbo (an idea for a "what if" issue). You should have left well enough alone. Magik didn't conquer her problems, she only cheated them.

I don't mean to be abusive about how you run your characters, but I also believe that there should be some growth of your characters. I admit that not all of your characters have this problem (Mirage, Sunspot) but some do. Please be aware of these things. Sorry for being so critical guys, so until they start making flesh colored band-aids for She-hulk, Make Mine Marvel.

Erick (Jake) Cave
2214 S. Magnolia St.
Santa Anna, CA 92707

Hey, Jake . . . we never take constructive criticism as anything but vital input from our readers. And you raised several good points. Sam is doubting himself lately because the whole concept of co-captain of the New Mutants faded after Doug's death when Magneto ruled with an iron hand. Now with Maggie gone, and Dan about to become Hela's pawn, Sam has to make vital decisions . . . alone. And we think a little self-doubt is a good thing.

Rahne's sympathetic nature is the core of her being. In Sam's words, she is the very 'heart of the team'. And, as for Illyana . . . we think it's interesting to see how the kids are going to do without their strongest member.

Dear Bob and Daryl,

The only reason I'm writing about issue #76 is that it had a very interesting letters page. The issue itself wasn't too bad but the letters page was more interesting.

I'm 14 and M. Spencer's letter really annoyed me . . . well, M., you're absolutely right, we teens don't have anything to worry about in the world and of course you're right when you say that we wouldn't give 2 seconds thought before jetting off to a party or a mall. Well, it's just a miracle we get any sleep at all, isn't it, what with partying all night and then spending a few hours at school and then just racing off to that funfunfun place—"The Mall." Good golly our lives are just one big social event aren't they.

Responsibility? Ha! We teens are the most irresponsible people in the entire universe aren't we fellow teenagers? Why yes of course we are. Sometimes we are a danger to be let out on the street what with all the partying we do combined with the totally healthy feeling of no responsibility at all. Gosh! I don't know how I can handle being

so fun, fun, fun all the time just like all my fellow teens are. It just amazes me to think How right you are, "M". All teens never ever think about anything at all morbid or depressing.

In case you hadn't noticed the above two paragraphs were totally sarcastic. I think that M. Spencer's letter was the most patronizing thing I've ever had the misfortune to read. Teens are the most varied group of people you could ever find. At this age you are forced to make serious decisions and are starting to become an adult. Needless to say this is not the easiest thing in the world to do.

This is one of the things I strongly dislike about the NEW MUTANTS now. In the Claremont days, the cast was amazing in it's variety. An American Indian, a Russian demon sorceress, a Scottish werewolf really screwed up by a religious fanatic of a guardian, an alien, a Brazilian solar energy cell with a hellfire club member father, etc., etc., etc.. Now the variety has almost totally vanished. No Nova Roman, Doug Ramsay written out forever because his power wasn't flashy enough, no longer is there the Vietnamese "possessor," Illyana is as good as dead. The others have been changed into exactly the opposite of what they were at the beginning of the New Mutants, that is, they are now the bubble gum blowing, MTV addicted, Mail rating, stereo types of teenagers. They are now all the same. Before there was variety, they all had their own personalities there was some depth to their characters and they all had their own ideas of how to handle their new found super powers and the stigma that went along with being a mutant.

Now I fear that things are set to go from bad to worse. The costumes are revolting. Are they meant to be fashionable?? Or are they meant to be saying "We're teens look at us—we're a bunch of idiots." Honestly, the costumes make them look 100% stupid. PLEASE get rid of them and give them something halfway decent. If they are to have separate costumes and not the better New Mutant uniforms, please think about their powers and personalities. Would Rahne really wear a skin tight costume? She gets embarrassed at the beach when she wears a loose T-Shirt (NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #3). Why would Roberto's costume show up in his Sunspot form? It never did before.

I could go on for hours about what else I think is wrong and how you could improve it, but I'll save you from it.

Andrew Williams
58 Cippenharn Lane
Slough
Berks SL1 #BN
England

Andrew, as we mentioned above . . . we find criticism from our readers very important. But, what do your fellow readers think? Do you think the Mutants are representative of kids today . . . and should they be?



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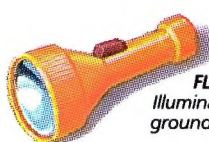
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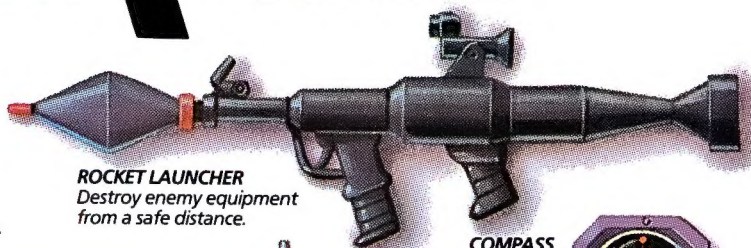
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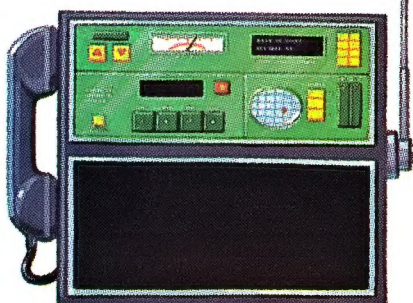
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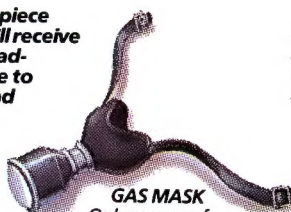
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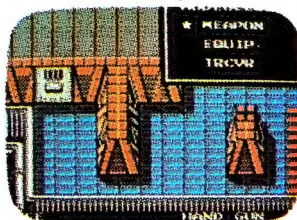
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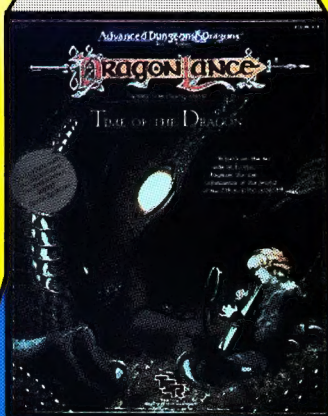
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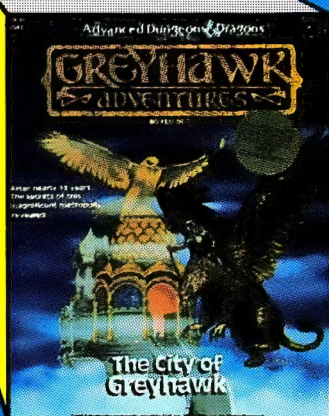
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